

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 41 and 42 without prejudice and amend claims 40, 44, and 46-51 as follows:

40. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent pant comprising:

a multi-layer chassis including an outer cover, a liner, and an absorbent structure disposed between said outer cover and said liner, said outer cover having a first surface facing said liner and a second surface opposite said first surface, said chassis formed as a pant and including a waist opening and a pair of leg openings, one layer of said multi-layer structure including an extension portion extending beyond an edge of another layer of said multi-layer structure and peripherally surrounding said waist opening, wherein said extension portion is formed from said outer cover; and

a closed-loop waist elastic system including an elongate sleeve member defining an elongate passage therein, said waist elastic system being generally peripherally disposed about said waist opening, and at least one elongate elastic member disposed within said elongate passage, said elongate passage formed by folding said extension portion upon itself and joining an end portion of said extension portion to a surface of said extension portion, wherein said surface of said extension portion to which said end portion is joined comprises said second surface of said outer cover.

Claims 41 and 42 (Cancelled).

43. (Original) The disposable absorbent pant of claim 40, wherein said one layer comprises a nonwoven layer.

44. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent pant comprising:

a multi-layer chassis including an outer cover, a liner, and an absorbent structure disposed between said outer cover and said liner, said outer cover having a

first surface facing said liner and a second surface opposite said first surface, said chassis formed as a pant and including a waist opening and a pair of leg openings, one layer of said multi-layer structure including an extension portion extending beyond an edge of another layer of said multi-layer structure and peripherally surrounding said waist opening; and

a closed-loop waist elastic system including an elongate sleeve member defining an elongate passage therein, said waist elastic system being generally peripherally disposed about said waist opening, and at least one elongate elastic member disposed within said elongate passage, said elongate passage formed by folding said extension portion upon itself and joining an end portion of said extension portion to a surface of said extension portion. ~~The disposable absorbent pant of claim 40,~~ wherein said at least one elastic member is substantially freely movable within said elongate passage.

45. (Original) The disposable absorbent pant of claim 40, wherein said at least one elastic member is intermittently joined to said elongate sleeve member at spaced apart zones.

46. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent pant comprising:

a multi-layer chassis including an outer cover, a liner, and an absorbent structure disposed between said outer cover and said liner, said outer cover having a first surface facing said liner and a second surface opposite said first surface, said chassis formed as a pant and including a waist opening and a pair of leg openings, one layer of said multi-layer structure including an extension portion extending beyond an edge of another layer of said multi-layer structure and peripherally surrounding said waist opening; and

a closed-loop waist elastic system including an elongate sleeve member defining an elongate passage therein, said waist elastic system being generally peripherally disposed about said waist opening, and at least one elongate elastic

member disposed within said elongate passage, said elongate passage formed by folding said extension portion upon itself and joining an end portion of said extension portion to a surface of said extension portion;

~~The disposable absorbent pant of claim 40,~~ wherein said closed-loop waist elastic system has a magnitude of decay of 48.95 to 86.77 grams at an extension of about 300 millimeters over the first three cycles.

47. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent pant comprising:  
a multi-layer chassis including an outer cover, a liner, and an absorbent structure disposed between said outer cover and said liner, said outer cover having a first surface facing said liner and a second surface opposite said first surface, said chassis formed as a pant and including a waist opening and a pair of leg openings, one layer of said multi-layer structure including an extension portion extending beyond an edge of another layer of said multi-layer structure and peripherally surrounding said waist opening; and

a closed-loop waist elastic system including an elongate sleeve member defining an elongate passage therein, said waist elastic system being generally peripherally disposed about said waist opening, and at least one elongate elastic member disposed within said elongate passage, said elongate passage formed by folding said extension portion upon itself and joining an end portion of said extension portion to a surface of said extension portion;

~~The disposable absorbent pant of claim 40,~~ wherein said closed-loop waist elastic system has a magnitude of decay of 53.40 to 86.77 grams at an extension of about 275 millimeters over the first three cycles.

48. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent pant comprising:  
a multi-layer chassis including an outer cover, a liner, and an absorbent structure disposed between said outer cover and said liner, said outer cover having a first surface facing said liner and a second surface opposite said first surface, said

chassis formed as a pant and including a waist opening and a pair of leg openings, one layer of said multi-layer structure including an extension portion extending beyond an edge of another layer of said multi-layer structure and peripherally surrounding said waist opening; and

a closed-loop waist elastic system including an elongate sleeve member defining an elongate passage therein, said waist elastic system being generally peripherally disposed about said waist opening, and at least one elongate elastic member disposed within said elongate passage, said elongate passage formed by folding said extension portion upon itself and joining an end portion of said extension portion to a surface of said extension portion;

~~The disposable absorbent pant of claim 40,~~ wherein said closed-loop waist elastic system has a magnitude of decay of 51.17 to 80.10 grams at an extension of about 250 millimeters over the first three cycles.

49. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent pant comprising:

a multi-layer chassis including an outer cover, a liner, and an absorbent structure disposed between said outer cover and said liner, said outer cover having a first surface facing said liner and a second surface opposite said first surface, said chassis formed as a pant and including a waist opening and a pair of leg openings, one layer of said multi-layer structure including an extension portion extending beyond an edge of another layer of said multi-layer structure and peripherally surrounding said waist opening; and

a closed-loop waist elastic system including an elongate sleeve member defining an elongate passage therein, said waist elastic system being generally peripherally disposed about said waist opening, and at least one elongate elastic member disposed within said elongate passage, said elongate passage formed by folding said extension portion upon itself and joining an end portion of said extension portion to a surface of said extension portion;

~~The disposable absorbent pant of claim 40,~~ wherein said closed-loop waist

elastic system has a magnitude of decay of 48.95 to 71.20 grams at an extension of about 225 millimeters over the first three cycles.

50. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent pant comprising:  
a multi-layer chassis including an outer cover, a liner, and an absorbent structure disposed between said outer cover and said liner, said outer cover having a first surface facing said liner and a second surface opposite said first surface, said chassis formed as a pant and including a waist opening and a pair of leg openings, one layer of said multi-layer structure including an extension portion extending beyond an edge of another layer of said multi-layer structure and peripherally surrounding said waist opening; and  
a closed-loop waist elastic system including an elongate sleeve member defining an elongate passage therein, said waist elastic system being generally peripherally disposed about said waist opening, and at least one elongate elastic member disposed within said elongate passage, said elongate passage formed by folding said extension portion upon itself and joining an end portion of said extension portion to a surface of said extension portion;

~~The disposable absorbent pant of claim 40,~~ wherein said closed-loop waist elastic system has a magnitude of decay of 31.15 to 64.53 grams at an extension of about 200 millimeters over the first three cycles.

51. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent pant comprising:  
a multi-layer chassis including an outer cover, a liner, and an absorbent structure disposed between said outer cover and said liner, said outer cover having a first surface facing said liner and a second surface opposite said first surface, said chassis formed as a pant and including a waist opening and a pair of leg openings, one layer of said multi-layer structure including an extension portion extending beyond an edge of another layer of said multi-layer structure and peripherally surrounding said waist opening; and

a closed-loop waist elastic system including an elongate sleeve member defining an elongate passage therein, said waist elastic system being generally peripherally disposed about said waist opening, and at least one elongate elastic member disposed within said elongate passage, said elongate passage formed by folding said extension portion upon itself and joining an end portion of said extension portion to a surface of said extension portion;

~~The disposable absorbent pant of claim 40,~~ wherein said outer cover comprises a liquid-permeable layer and a liquid-impermeable layer.

52. (Original) The disposable absorbent pant of claim 40 wherein said at least one elongate elastic member is completely encapsulated within said elongate passage around the entire periphery of said waist opening.